

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-35 (Cancelled)

Claim 36 (new) In a process for purifying a hydride gas by removing contaminant oxygen from said hydride gas which comprises the step of contacting said hydride gas with a reduced metal oxide, the improvement which comprises:

contacting said hydride gas with a reduced metal oxide carried on a porous support selected from the group consisting of manganese oxide impregnated on porous carbon or porous activated alumina and an alkali and alkaline earth metal oxide impregnated on a porous activated alumina.

Claim 37 (new) The process of Claim 36 wherein the alkali metal is selected from cesium, potassium and sodium.

Claim 38. (new) The process of Claim 36 wherein a desiccant is employed to assist in the removal of water, if generated, in the step of removing oxygen.

Claim 39. (new) The process of Claim 36 wherein the metal oxide is manganese oxide and the manganese oxide is impregnated on activated alumina.

Claim 40. (new) The process of Claim 36 wherein the metal oxide is manganese oxide and it is impregnated on a carbon support and a desiccant is included to remove any water that may be generated during the removing contaminant oxygen.